

REMARKS

Claims 1-58 remain in this application. Independent claims 1, 15, 29, 43 and 57 have been amended to clarify an inherent property of the claimed cushion layer, namely that it is an electrically conductive layer. Accordingly, claims 1, 15, 29, 43, and 57 have not been narrowed.

The claim rejections raised in the Office Action will now be addressed.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hosada et al. (6,738,407) in view of Lee et al (5,789,768). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Hosada et al. teaches "a high-resistance region [241] in a sidewall of said groove which is provided between the semiconductor laser resonators, said high-resistance region having sufficient resistance *to electrically isolate* the first and second semiconductor laser resonators from one another." Col. 14, ll. 47-51 (emphasis added).

By contrast, in the present invention, the claimed cushion layer does not electrically isolate the second cladding layer 344 from the second electrode 39. Indeed, because current from the second electrode 39 must flow through the cushion layer for light to be emitted by the active layer 342, the cushion layer cannot have sufficient resistance to electrically isolate the second electrode from the second cladding layer. Thus, Hosada et al., which teaches a semiconductor device with multiple laser resonators that employ a high-resistance region to electrically isolate first and second resonators of the described device, does not teach or suggest the claims of the present invention when taken alone or in combination with Lee et al. Accordingly, the outstanding 35 USC § 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 31, 2005

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